



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Endorses Bush Choice Approach

An *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editorial yesterday endorsed President Bush's safety valve choice initiative that allows parents to remove their children from chronically failing schools and send them to the school of their choice, either public or private. Excerpts from the editorial are included below:

"Title I has been a failure. In its more than 35 years of existence, this federal program has poured \$120 billion into schools such as Jenkins [Elementary School], yet the extra cash has done nothing to turn around academic achievement."

"Why continue pouring taxpayer dollars down a bottomless well at Jenkins and hundreds of other Georgia Title I schools that need dramatic improvement? That's the very question President Bush is asking. Bush has presented an education plan to Congress that would bring accountability to Title I and other federal education programs."

"What makes matters worse is that schools such as Jenkins and Dunbar have waited far too long to ask for state assistance to turn around student achievement. Parents should not have to tolerate such indifference from public educators."

"That's why Bush should stand firm in working with Congress to offer these poorest of poor children the opportunity to escape schools that ignore their needs. Without a chance at a quality education, these children will grow up to perpetuate the cycle of poverty in their communities. Neither parents nor educators should accept that."

### *Message of the Day*

**School choice works. Studies have proven that state choice programs increase student achievement in reading, language, math, and science.**

- ❑ *The No Child Left Behind plan will extend school choice opportunities to students in chronically failing schools.*
- ❑ *President Bush's plan provides special assistance to failing schools; the school choice option is only a last resort for students in chronically low-performing schools.*
- ❑ *No child should be forced to remain trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- According to a study by Harvard University's Jay P. Greene, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, struggling public schools in Florida made exceptionally large gains in student performance when faced with the last-resort option of parents being empowered to send their children to other (including private) schools.
- A September 1999 report conducted by the Indiana Center for Evaluation found that participants in Cleveland's scholarship program scored up to five percentile points higher than their public school counterparts in language and science assessments.

### *QUOTE OF THE DAY*

*"We need to be bold enough to blow the whistle on failure by giving parents different options if their children are trapped in failing schools."* **President Bush, March 14, 2001, speech before the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce**